

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 17935 131529Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 PM-04 INR-07 /037 W
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P 131311Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0024

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17935

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR KUX (NEA/INS) FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, MILI
SUBJECT: PERSONAL VISIT TO INDIA BY COMIDEASTFOR

1. I HAVE RECEIVED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM RADM CROWE (COMIDEASTFOR) SUGGESTING HE VISIT DELHI AND POSSIBLY BOMBAY JANUARY 5 - 9 FOR LOW-KEY ORIENTATION VISIT AND CALLS ON SENIOR INDIAN NAVAL COUNTERPARTS. THIS FOLLOWS INFORMAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN EMBASSY AND RADM CROWE, OF WHICH YOU ARE AWARE, IN WHICH WE HAVE INDICATED WE WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH SUCH A VISIT. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, YET DISCUSSED A VISIT WITH INDIAN NAVY ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT NO PROBLEM THERE. QUESTION WILL BE WHETHER MEA CLEARANCE CAN BE GOTTEN IN TIME.

2. RADM CROWE NOW INFORMS US THAT HIS TRIP HAS BEEN CLEARED THROUGH HIS COMMAND CHANNELS IN DOD. THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT UNLESS YOU SEE SOME MAJOR PROBLEM, I WILL RESPOND TO HIS MESSAGE BY DECEMBER 15 INDICATING THAT A JANUARY 5 - 9 TIME-FRAME IS AGREEABLE TO US, THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HIS COMING IN HIS OFFICIAL C-131 IF GOI APPROVES, AND THAT WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO ARRANGE CALLS ON SENIOR INDIAN NAVY OFFICIALS (INCLUDING NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF) HERE AND IN BOMBAY.

3. WE ARE LIKELY TO GET SOME PRESS INQUIRIES WHEN CROWE ARRIVES SINCE THIS WILL BE FIRST COMIDEASTFOR VISIT IN OVER FIVE YEARS. WITH RUMORS OF A-4 SALES AND CURRENT VISIT BY SOVIET NAVAL CHIEF GORSHKOV IN RECENT NEWS AT TIME OF CROWE
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VISIT, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AVOID SOME PRESS SPECULATION WHICH

GOES CONSIDERABLY BEYOND ACTUAL FACTS. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SAY
ONLY THAT VISIT IS FOR PERSONAL ORIENTATION, AND THAT RADM
CROWE IS INFORMALLY MEETING WITH HIS INDIAN NAVY COUNTERPARTS.
PERIOD.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE17935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760458-1275
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761248/aaaabpoy.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERSONAL VISIT TO INDIA BY COMIDEASTFOR
TAGS: OTRA, MILI, US, IN, (CROWE, WILLIAM J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006